II. ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

GENERAL STATEMENT

The University of Chicago Law School was established in 1902. It aims to give a thorough legal training to students whose education and maturity have fitted them to pursue serious professional study. The method of instruction employed—the study and discussion of cases—is designed to give an effective knowledge of legal principles and to develop the power of independent legal reasoning. The course of study offered, requiring three academic years for completion, is not local in its scope, but constitutes a thorough preparation for the practice of law in any English-speaking jurisdiction. By taking advantage of the quarter system (see “General Information,” p. 9, below) students may complete the course in two and one-fourth calendar years.

Only college graduates or students who have had college work equivalent to three years in the University are admitted as regular students, candidates for the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.),¹ which is conferred upon college graduates only. The University permits one year of law to be counted as the fourth year of college work, and confers an academic bachelor's degree upon candidates for J.D. who have completed one year in the Law School, thus enabling them to obtain both the academic and the professional degree in six years. Mature students of promising ability who cannot meet the above requirements may be admitted as candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) upon the special conditions stated below, pp. 5-7, under “Admission Requirements” and “Degrees.”

It is very desirable that the preliminary education of law students should include work in history, economics, and political science, and provision has been made in the third college year for pre-legal study devoted chiefly to these subjects. This course is not required, but students expecting to study law are strongly advised to pursue it. Its suggested topics are found below, p. 11, under “Pre-Legal Courses.”

THE LAW BUILDING

The Law School occupies a new building within the University quadrangles, erected especially for it in 1904. It is three stories high, 175 feet long and 80 feet wide, built of stone in the English Gothic style of architecture. On the first floor are four lecture rooms, two of which are in theater form. The mezzanine floor is occupied by the library stack-room, connected with the reading-room above by electric book lifts and designed to contain steel stacks for 90,000 volumes. Opening into the stack-room are studies for members of the Faculty and the Librarian's room. On the third floor is the reading-room, a great hall with high timbered ceiling, 160 feet long and 50 feet wide, lighted on all sides by Gothic windows. It has wall shelves for 14,000 books and provides space for tables accommodating over 400 readers. Adjoining the reading-room is the office of the Dean. In the basement is a smoking-room, and the locker-room

¹ This form of degree (Juris Doctor) was chosen as appropriate for graduate professional work after consultation with other graduate law schools, and it has since been adopted by several schools.
containing several hundred steel-mesh lockers for the use of students. The building is lighted by electricity, is artificially ventilated, is provided with an interior telephone system, and in every respect is thoroughly equipped for its purpose.

**The Library**

The Law Library contains 29,300 volumes. Except a few county court decisions, it includes all of the American, English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and higher Indian reports, with their digests; all past and present codes and statutory revisions of those jurisdictions; all English, Irish, and Scotch statutes, and (except the early laws of some of the older states) the session laws of all the American states and Canadian provinces; all collateral reports and series of classified cases in use; an extensive collection of treatises, periodicals, trials, and legal miscellany, including a large amount of old English historical material; and a working library in French, German, Spanish, and Mexican law.

Students in the Law School may use the other University libraries, containing about 440,000 volumes.

**Practice Courses, Moot Courts, and Public Speaking**

To familiarize students with the more generally prevailing rules of procedure in American courts, courses in practice are offered continuing through two years. The course for second-year students deals with proceedings in suits before judgment; and the course for third-year students includes judgments, their enforcement and review, and various special proceedings. Both courses are required of all law students.

A number of law clubs exist which hold moot courts with the advice and assistance of members of the Faculty. Students are encouraged to form or join these bodies and to take part in their proceedings.

The University courses in public speaking and debate are open without extra charge to students of the Law School, and the latter maintain one of the University debating societies. Law students are eligible for the University prize debates, and for places upon the intercollegiate debating teams.

**Admission Requirements**

**Admission to the Pre-Legal Course**

Admission to the pre-legal course is granted to students who have completed in the University or elsewhere at least eighteen majors (two years) of college work. Credit will be given for acceptable work done in other institutions of collegiate rank.

Such students, after completing enough pre-legal work (see "Pre-Legal Courses," p. 11, below) to give them altogether twenty-seven majors (three years) of credit in the University, will be admitted to the Law School as candidates for the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.). Upon the completion of one year of law and the satisfaction of the requirements stated below, p. 7, under "Degrees," they will receive an academic bachelor's degree from the University.

The pre-legal course is not required for admission to the Law School, but